



NEWS RELEASE

**NELSON P. COHEN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513-7567 • (907) 271-5071

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 14, 2007**

07-162

**ANCHORAGE MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT
TO CONSPIRACY IN RELATION TO DRUG TRAFFICKING**

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced today, November 14, 2007, that Yancy Darnell Johns, Jr., a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of conspiracy in relation to controlled substance trafficking.

Johns, age 21, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine base, or “crack,” before Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick. Vanisa Yvonne Crenshaw is also named as a defendant in the indictment.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White advised the court that on three separate occasions, the defendant sold crack cocaine to a government informant. Co-defendant Crenshaw provided assistance to the defendant by driving him to the meeting places for the drug deals, returning telephone calls made to the defendant from the government informant, and arranging her own meetings with the informant for the purpose of selling crack cocaine. The total amount of crack distributed during the course of this conspiracy was 8.7 grams.

Judge Sedwick set sentencing for February 7, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 5 to 40 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Johns continues to remain in custody pending sentencing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney’s Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

###